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Always There*

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NFL Player turns Idaho Army Guardsman

By Staff Sgt. Jason Kremer, Idaho Army
National Guard Recruiter

Spc. Daryn Colledge was born on Feb. 11, 1982 in Fairbanks, Alaska. He grew up in the small town of North Pole, Alaska, where he spent his time enjoying the outdoors with family and friends. He grew up playing many different sports and became an Eagle Scout in 1998. He eventually moved on to become an Explorer Scout, where he helped with mountaineering and search and rescue in the local area.

Throughout most of his high school career, Colledge played Baseball. It wasn't until his senior year he decided to try his hand at football. As a result, he received baseball scholarship offers from numerous colleges as well as football scholarship offers from the University of Oregon and Boise State University. After visiting Boise and its university, he accepted BSU's offer. He made this decision based not only on opportunities he saw in the team, but also in the qualities he observed in the coaching staff and the Boise community, as a whole.

Colledge was a red shirt for the 2001-2002 season. With help from the BSU coaches and staff, he was able to build on his strength and agility. He spent four years as a starter on the offensive line as the left tackle, where he was able to perfect his game. During his sophomore year, Colledge met his wife, Megan, when she moved into the house that he and some friends were renting. They became engaged in December of 2004 and married in July of 2005.

After graduating from BSU in December of 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Communications, Colledge started training for the NFL. By April of 2006, he was drafted by the Green Bay Packers and played starting offensive guard for five years and accomplished many achievements, both personally and as part of the team to include winning Super Bowl XLV against the Pittsburgh Steelers. In July of 2011, the Arizona Cardinals picked him up on a five-year contract. In March of 2014, he was released as a free agent and picked up by the Miami Dolphins. After one season with the Dolphins, he decided to retire and settle down in Boise with his family.

Colledge was always interested in serving in the military. Many of his family members currently serve or have served in various branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. His great grandfather, grandfather, uncles, cousin, sister-in-law and brother have all served their country. For this reason, he always had a strong sense of patriotism.

Originally, Colledge considered joining the Active Duty Army when he was still with the Cardinals, but due to the birth of his daughter and being under contract, he decided it was not the right time. Upon retiring, he looked at his options again. Considering the benefits of the National Guard, Daryn decided the Idaho Army National Guard was the best fit for him and his family.

The ability to serve here in Idaho and support his local community were key selling points. "The biggest influence in my decision was the ability to stay local and work in the community but still be trained to the standards required to deploy and defend our nation," Daryn said.

On March 22, 2016, Daryn enlisted as a "15T," UH-60 Helicopter Repair specialist. He always loved aviation and this gives



Idaho Army National Guard Recruiter Staff Sgt. Jason Kremer, left, shakes hands after enlisting former NFL star Daryn Colledge into the Idaho Army National Guard. Colledge played for the Green Bay Packers and Miami Dolphins before deciding to retire from the NFL and join the Idaho National Guard. Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Rolf Kilchenmann

him the opportunity to work in the field, with a possibility of getting into a flying position in the future.

It is a great pleasure to work with someone who has had such a successful career and is such a positive influence to so many people. There are many reasons that people join the National Guard, but at the root of all those reasons is service to our country and community. As is the case with most of those who join the Idaho National Guard, our community and country is better off by having them as a member. I look forward to standing with Spc. Colledge, and all of our brothers and sisters of the Armed forces who serve our communities and defend this great nation.

Guardian

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